

VP(18)3476 :1 – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
European Commission
4, Rue Breydel
BE-1040 Brussels

Brussels, 4th May 2018

Re: Sub-group on pig welfare to be established as a part of EU Platform on animal welfare

Dear [REDACTED]

We are contacting you in reference to the sub- group on pig welfare which will most probably be established under the EU Platform on Animal Welfare in June 2018.

As you know, Animal Welfare is a key priority for European farmers and agri-cooperatives. In this respect, we have been actively involved in the different discussions and platforms that have taken place in the last years. Moreover, we are active contributors to the Animal Welfare Platform and we intend also to contribute to the sub-group on animal transport.

In addition to our public engagement, we have set up a working group inside Copa-Cogeca to develop an action plan on pig welfare, and in particular on actions to prevent tail biting and reduce tail docking of pigs, which would support our experts in the activities of the sub-group.

Concretely about the sub-group on pig welfare, we consider it essential to ensure a good representation of European farmers and agri-cooperatives. Copa and Cogeca are the key stakeholders in this discussion as it has been already expressed in the last event on rearing pigs with intact tails¹, organised by the European Commission.

In order to ensure a good geographical representation and have a sufficiently representative group of experts which provide feed-back on the different rearing systems in the EU, we believe that Copa should be represented with five seats and Cogeca with five seats.

Finally, in relation to the scope of the sub-group, Copa and Cogeca believe that the work should focus on enforcement of current legislation on pig welfare, particularly on actions to prevent tail biting and reduce tail docking of pigs. We consider that other voluntary initiatives such as pig castration and labelling, are not directly linked with the existing legislation and should be excluded from the scope of the sub-group. By taking this approach, all signatories would still be asked to feed into the debate.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/animal-welfare-european-commission-organising-event-about-rearing-pigs-intact-tails-2017-nov-28_en

We hope that these requests will be granted for your full consideration. We remain at your disposal should you have any points to clarify.

Yours sincerely,



c.c. Mr. Xavier Prats Monne, European Commission, Director General, Health and Food Safety
[REDACTED] DG SANTE, [REDACTED] Animal Welfare
[REDACTED], DG SANTE, [REDACTED] Animal Health and Welfare